REMARKS

Initially, Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the recent interview held on October 14, 2004. The claim amendments made by this paper are consistent with the proposals discussed during the interview.

In the first Office Action, mailed August 25, 2004, claims 1-48 were rejected in view of Leonard (U.S. Patent No. 6,721,784).[1] Claim 14 was also objected to because of informalities. These informalities have been overcome by the amendments made to claim 14. By this paper, claims 1, 12, 14, 27, 29 and 43 have been amended, claims 11, 42, 45-48 have been cancelled, and claims 49-50 have been added, such that claims 2-10, 12-41, 43-44, 49-50 remain pending, of which claims 1, 12, 14, 27, 29 and 43 are the independent claims at issue.[2]

As discussed during the interview, the present invention is generally directed to methods, systems and computer-program products, as recited in the independent claims, for discouraging dissemination of information contained within an e-mail message. During the interview, claim amendments were presented that clarify embodiments of the invention in which an e-mail message is only transmitted to an e-mail reader client after the e-mail server first determines that the e-mail client is capable of implementing one or more functions that have been applied to the e-mail message by the e-mail sender that limit the opportunity to disseminate the e-mail message.

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[1] Claims 1-9, 11-18, 20-44 and 46-48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Leonard while claims 10-19 and 45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Leonard. Although the prior art status of the cited art is not being challenged at this time, Applicants reserve the right to challenge the prior art status of the cited art at any appropriate time, should it arise. Accordingly, any arguments and amendments made herein should not be construed as acquiescing to any prior art status of the cited art.

[2] Support for the amendments and new claims are drawn from various passages throughout the application including, but not limited to pages 4 and 15.
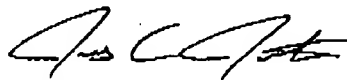
As further discussed during the interview, and as suggested by the interview summary, Leonard fails to anticipate or obviate the methods and computer program products recited in the pending claims. Accordingly, the pending claims should now be found to be allowable over the art of record[3].

In the event that the Examiner finds remaining impediment to a prompt allowance of this application that may be clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Dated this ___10___ day of November 2004.

Respectfully submitted,

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[3] Although specific arguments will not be made regarding the dependent claims, because they are allowable for at least the same reasons described above, it will also be specifically noted that, as discussed during the interview, Leonard fails to teach or suggest the embodiments recited in claims 37, 39, 10, 26, 41.

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